

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /034 W

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R 191347Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR ET

SUBJECT: PMAC NAMES FIVE AMBASSADORS

FRENCH LANGUAGE ADDIS SOIR OF MAY 5 HAS ARTICLE ON APPOINTMENT OF FIVE AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE. THERE FOLLOWS A LIST OF THE FIVE WITH AVAILABLE BIO INFORMATION.

1. ATO GETACHEW MEKASHA, AMBASSADOR TO ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT; GETACHEW PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA AND KENYA. HE ALSO SERVED AS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. ADDITIONALLY, HE HAS SERVED IN VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS REPRESENTED ETHIOPIA AT SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. AN EXTREMELY ABLE DIPLOMAT, HE IS A CONVINCED PAN AFRICANIST WHO IS VERY WELL INFORMED ON AFRICA. HIS WIFE, WOIZER (MRS.) ETSEGENET HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM UNIVERSITY OF DENVER. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT MAY WISH SUPPLEMENT FOREGOING WITH ITS HOLDINGS FOR EMBASSY CAIRO.

2. ATO MENGISTE DESTA, AMBASSADOR TO KENYA; MENGISTE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN. THE SUDANESE APPARENTLY CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM UNSATISFACTORY AND SO REPORTED TO THE THEN FOREIGN MINISTER

KETEMA YIFRU IN 1971. PRIOR TO THAT, MENGISTE SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT MINISTER AND IN SEVERAL OTHER POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HIS LAST (CURRENT) POSITION WAS VICE MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE AFRICAN-MIDEAST DEPARTMENT OF MOFA. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. MENGISTE DESTA IS A VERY SELF-PROTECTIVE INDIVIDUAL. HE VOLUNTEERS NO MORE THAN HE MUST, TENDS TO EMPHASIZE WHAT HIS INTERLOCUTOR WANTS TO HEAR, AND NOW MORE THAN EVER IS CAREFUL TO LIMIT HIS EXPOSURE. MENGISTE IS PROBABLY VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HIS COUNTRY'S AFRICAN AND MIDEASTERN RELATIONSHIPS BUT IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF CULTIVATION TO GET HIM TO LOWER HIS GUARD AND TO DRAW HIM OUT. HE IS NOT UNFAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US.

3. ATO ABATE AGIDE, AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL; ABATE HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO KENYA AND TANZANIA. BEFORE THAT HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, ACCREDITED TO DENMARK, NORWAY AND FINLAND. HE HAS HELD TWO POSITIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF ASSISTANT MINISTER, IN THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, AND HAS WORKED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SERVED AS THIRD SECRETARY IN THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, AND SERVED IN THE UN IN NEW YORK. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF SEVERAL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WAS CHIEF OF THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN 1964. ABATE IS DESCRIBED AS ABLE AND REMARKABLY FORTHCOMING IN HIS DEALINGS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND AS GENERALLY PRO-AMERICAN. WHILE HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, HE WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED BY AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE AS RESULT OF A DISAGREEMENT.

4. DR. FITIGU TADESSE, CONSUL GENERAL OF ETHIOPIA IN THE TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR. HE IS A MEMBER OF A DISTINGUISHED ETHIOPIAN FAMILY OF FALASHA (JEWISH) ORIGIN WHICH HAS BEEN CHRISTIAN FOR THE LAST SEVERAL GENERATIONS. HE HAS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM ISRAEL (SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES) AND A PHD IN LAW FROM UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG IN FRANCE. HE HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENTS. THE OLDEST OF SIX CHILDREN, DR. FITIGU IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND SOPHISTICATED AND SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH, HEBREW, ITALIAN, ENGLISH, AMHARIC, AND SOME GERMAN. HE TENDS TO BE VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT ARABS AND IS A HARD WORKER. EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE FRENCH FROM HIS STUDENT DAYS, HE SHOULD BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN HIS NEW JOB. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE ASSUMES HIS NEW DUTIES AT A CRUCIAL TIME AND WE CONSIDER HIS ASSIGNMENT TO DJIBOUTI AS TESTIMONY TO THE ESTEEM IN WHICH HE IS HELD. HE HIMSELF WAS SURPRISED BY HIS APPOINTMENT -- PARTICULARLY SINCE AS A LANDOWNER, HE SEES ETHIOPIA'S INTERESTS AND THOSE OF HIS CLASS RATHER DIFFERENTLY THAN DO PMAC'S RADICAL REFORMERS. HE HAS TOLD US THAT HE HAS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PMAC FIRST V/CHAIRMAN MENGISTU. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US.

5. ATO BERHANU WAKWOYA, ETHIOPIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IN GENEVA; A GRADUATE OF HAILE SELASSIE I UNIVERSITY IN ECONOMICS, 41-YEAR OLD BERHANU ALSO HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM UC BERKELEY. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND AS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT BOARD AND MOST RECENTLY, AS THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS REPRESENTED ETHIOPIA AT SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. MANY CONSIDER HIM A RADICAL LEFTIST WITH MARXIST INCLINATIONS AND FIND HIM NOTICEABLY SUSPICIOUS OF FOREIGNERS. EVEN THOUGH HAVING ATTENDED SCHOOL IN THE US, HE STILL VOICES ALL THE USUAL STEREOTYPES ABOUT AMERICA. WHILE SERVING AS MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, HE APPARENTLY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY "TAKING HOLD" OF THE JOB.

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